
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG INCLUDES \$590,000 IN SENATE MEASURE FOR STATEWIDE MILFOIL PREVENTION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced that two programs in New Hampshire focusing on stemming the spread of milfoil in Granite State lakes will benefit from \$590,000 in federal funding he has included in a pair of Fiscal Year 2004 Senate Appropriations measures that passed that Senate Appropriations Committee last week. Both measures are now ready for consideration by the entire Senate expected later this fall.

The programs include \$500,000 for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through the Environmental Protection Agency to research how various lake conditions and newly developed herbicides affect milfoil growth; investigate if milfoil can be mitigated through the robust growth of native plant species; and to create a handbook to spread information on the dangers of milfoil. In addition, the New Hampshire Lakes Association will receive \$90,000 through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to continue its milfoil lake host program, designed to expand its lake coverage from 38 to 55 sites. Senator Gregg, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for NOAA, previously secured \$260,100 for the Lakes Association program and joined the Lake Association for its annual "Lakes Congress" earlier this year as well as attended an event at Lake Sunapee last summer.

Senator Gregg stated, "These funds will continue to target a problem that has the potential to devastate the health of New Hampshire lakes if it goes unchecked. In the short-term, the New Hampshire Lakes Association is doing a tremendous job with its lake host program, ensuring that local residents charged with overseeing the health of unaffected lakes continue to educate boaters in the right way to prevent the spread of milfoil. While the Lakes Association is helping stem the tide on a day-to-day basis, the Department of Environmental Services will be studying ways to kill milfoil where it has already taken hold. Given the negative potential environmental impact milfoil can cause, it is critical to maintain efforts to halt its spread and identify ways to reverse its effects."

Joel M. Harrington, Environmental Policy Director for the New Hampshire Lakes Association, stated, "We at the New Hampshire Lakes Association couldn't be more pleased to have Senator Gregg's support for such an important statewide program. This year alone, the Lake Host program has protected eight New Hampshire lakes from becoming infected by invasive aquatic species. We are tremendously pleased to hear that Senator Gregg has included \$90,000 for our Lake Host program in the Senate Appropriations Committee bill."

For more information, contact Joel Harrington at (603) 226-0299.

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